

# The Purchasing Post

## Supporting Disadvantaged Businesses

Kansas State University purchasers & end-users are already familiar with the State Use Law & Prison Made Goods Act, whereby certain commodities & services are to be purchased from these designated businesses when spending state or grant funds. As I have said in the past, these statutes have a social purpose. By buying the pens from Envision, binders, from Ketch, or paint from KCI, we are supporting these disadvantaged people to learn a trade and make a living.

The Federal government also has programs in place to support small, minority-owned, or under-utilized businesses. Departments receiving grant funds from Federal entities are seeing requirements in their awards to purchase a percentage of goods/services from disadvantaged businesses. The percentage of dollars spent and type of business may vary from grant to grant, Federal agency to Federal agency, but it is a clause of which principal investigators and department purchasers must be aware.

K-State Purchasing is collecting data in our vendor listing to determine which vendors qualify as small, women-, minority-, or veteran-owned in order to assist departments in meeting their quotas specified in the grant awards. For purchases under \$5000 using grant funds, departments are not bound to State of Kansas contracts and so it may be in your best interest to purchase from a small, disadvantaged company. If your department is looking to make a purchase and also meet the disadvantaged business requirement, Purchasing will supply a list of the vendors we have. Likewise, if your department has a good source that meets the disadvantaged business designation, please let Purchasing know so we can log the vendor info and share it with other departments.

Be advised, the competitive bid process does not make allowances for preferences. But if the low bid is from a disadvantage business, BINGO! But we do need to document the purchases as such.

Roger McBride with Controller's Office / Sponsored Projects Accounting is the primary contact re: grant award requirements. Contact Purchasing with questions about applicable vendors.



### Relevant Acronyms

CCR – central contractor registration

DBE – disadvantaged business enterprise\*

DIS – disabled business enterprise

DVBE – service-disabled veterans-owned business concern\*

HUB – historically under-utilized businesses

MBE – minority business enterprises\*

SBA – small business administration, Federal agency

SBE – small business enterprise, under 500 employees

SDB – small disadvantage business concern

VBE – veterans-owned business concern\*

WBE – women business enterprises\*

(\*51% owned by qualifying individual or group)

